



**Parent Council**

## AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Tuesday 12 September 2023  
6.00pm**

<b>Parent Members:</b>	Kenny Pottinger (Chair), Carrie McDonald (Vice Chair), Ayesha Huda, Jerry Edwards, Vicki Gowans, Amanda Hawick, Anna Moar, Fiona Nicholson, Susan Williamson, Anna Sutherland, Annie Ko
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Robin Calder (Head Teacher – AHS), Dawn Ratter (Clerk/Treasurer), Barney Redman (Depute Head), Amy Sandison (Staff Rep) Nick McCaffrey (Co-opted Member), Zoe Galbraith, Sarah Burgess, Cllr Gary Robinson, Cllr Neil Pearson
<b>Apologies:</b>	Marianne Clark, Hazel Shearer, Gowri Saravanan, Andy Thompson, Louise Milne, Cameron MacKenzie (Staff Rep)

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Information / Action</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Election of Office Bearers</b> <b>Chairperson</b> – Fiona Nicholson Proposed by: Susan Williamson Seconded by: Kenny Pottinger  <b>Vice Chair</b> – Carrie Macdonald Proposed by: Ayesha Huda Seconded by: Kenny Pottinger  <b>Clerk/Treasurer</b> – Dawn Ratter	
<b>3</b>	<b>Parent Members</b> Susan Williamson, Anna Sutherland and Annie Ko joined as parent members.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Staff Representatives</b> Cameron Mackenzie is happy to remain as a Staff Representative. Amy Sandison will replace Helen Kerr as a Staff Representative.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes – Wednesday 10 May 2203</b> The minutes were approved by KP and seconded by CM.	

6	<b>Matters Arising</b> None.	
7	<b>Dates and Format of Future Meetings</b> Term 2 – Wednesday 15 November 2023 Term 3 – Thursday 1 February 2024 Term 4 – Wednesday 8 May 2024 AGM & Term 1 (2024/25) – Tuesday 10 September 2024  All meetings will be a hybrid format and start at 6.00pm.	
8	<b>Head Teachers Report (attached)</b> <u>Post COVID Recovery</u> A parent member asked for Mr Calder’s views on the recovery of children and young people and the impact this has had on their education, following the pandemic. Mr Calder noted it is important to look at individual children and young people, and try to avoid making generalisations. It has affected different ages and stages in different ways. Mr Calder feels the vast majority of young people have shown resilience and overcome the challenges. However, during his short time in post he has been aware of increased vulnerability, increased anxiety, loss of confidence and young people who are struggling socially around the school. It has been very difficult for some families. It still remains a challenge for some families and that can’t be underestimated but they also can’t attribute all challenges to COVID.  <u>Pupil Support</u> There are 5 pupil support teachers in the school and they can each support a maximum of 200 pupils on their caseload. The Social and Emotional Base (SEB) team work extensively with a relatively small group of pupils while pupil support have a more universal role to supporting children and young people. All teachers and support staff have a pastoral role in the health and wellbeing of pupils. Parent members expressed gratitude to the pupil support teachers.  <u>Staffing</u> Recruitment continues to be challenging both locally and nationally.	
9	<b>SQA Attainment 2023 in Anderson High School, high level messages (Mr Redman) (attached)</b> Mr Redman provided an overview of the attainment following the recent SQA exam results. There have been various different certification models over the last 5 years therefore statistics are very difficult to compare to previous years. The pass rates for 2023 are slightly below the national averages and work is ongoing to explore these statistics in more detail with the Principal Teachers for each subject area.	

	<p>The school are aspirational in terms of what they try to achieve with pupils. Pupils have more opportunity to try the N5 course, which ultimately probably results in statistics being a little lower. Mr Redman feels it is important to give pupils the chance to try the N5. As a school community it is important to ensure good discussions are ongoing between parents/carers, staff and pupils to make sure pupils are being presented at the correct level to achieve success for each individual pupil.</p>	
10	<p><b>2023-24 School Improvement Plan priorities and outline (Mr Calder)</b></p> <p>The School Improvement Plan is still being developed due to Mr Calder only starting in post in August. There are 4 priorities that were identified before he came into post:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving attendance at school and in classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How attendance is recorded</li> <li>- How to support Pupil Support in their role with attendance</li> <li>- How attendance is monitored</li> <li>- Working with families and young people to find ways to encourage them to come to school and what the barriers are</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Raising attainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refreshing study skills and study support for Senior Phase pupils</li> <li>- Broadening the school's curriculum offer and pathways in the Senior Phase for 2024/25 to better meet the needs of pupils</li> <li>- Developing the S6 experience for 2024/25, including more opportunities for wider achievement, work experience and leadership roles</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Developing self-evaluation and pupil voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring pupils have more opportunities to become involved in school life with pupil voice</li> <li>- Developing approaches to gathering the views of parents and carers on the life and work of the school</li> <li>- Increasing opportunities for staff to collaborate and share practice around learning and teaching</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Reinforcing whole school expectations, behaviour management strategies and consistency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring consistent approaches to managing behaviour</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The completed School Improvement Plan will be shared before the October holidays. Further discussions will be held on how to prioritise the Pupil Equity Funding which will also form part of the improvement plan.</p>	
11	<p><b>Global Classroom Conference 2024 (Miss Burgess/Mrs Galbraith)</b></p> <p>Shetland are hosting the Global Classroom Conference in June. This will be the first in person conference since 2019 due to COVID restrictions. There will be 7 schools participating from Australia, Sweden, Czech Republic, South Africa, Germany, Spain and USA with approximately 8 young people and 2 staff members from each country.</p>	

	<p>The conference is currently in early stages of planning and is open to S6 pupils from Anderson High School. The young people and staff from the visiting schools will arrive in Shetland on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and will leave on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. The theme for this year's conference is 'Community'. This will incorporate how to rebuild communities following COVID, how the school works as a community and how the school is involved in the local community.</p> <p>The organisers will be looking for volunteer host families from parents/carers with pupils in S4-S6. Hosts will be required from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. This will allow the young people from visiting schools to have the opportunity to be fully immersed in local communities and have the full experience of life in Shetland. They would also be interested in any potential sponsorship from local companies.</p> <p>The organisers asked for support from the parent council to apply under the Advanced Grant Scheme for a Tier 1 Grant through the Shetland Community Benefit Fund. Parent members were all in agreement to support the Global Classrooms with the funding application.</p> <p>Cllr G Robinson suggested exploring funding avenues through local Community Councils. There was a discussion on applying Shetland wide to Community Councils as there are pupils from all over Shetland attending the Anderson High School. Any organised activities will need to be planned around the funding available. They would like to be able to fund all costs while the young people and staff from the visiting schools are in Shetland, including travel costs from Aberdeen to Shetland.</p> <p>Miss Burgess and Mrs Galbraith would be happy to attend a future parent council meeting to update parent members on the planning progress.</p>	
12	<p><b>Wool Week Makers' Market, Anderson High School, Saturday 30 September 2023</b></p> <p>The school are looking for volunteers to help at the Wool Week Café.</p>	
13	<p><b>Parental Comments</b></p> <p><u>Water Bottles</u></p> <p>There has been a parental comment on the number of single use plastic bottles in the school. Mr Calder said the school would be looking into this from a pupil voice perspective, from an environmental perspective and with support from the central catering and cleaning team. The Scottish Government are looking into introducing a Deposit Return Scheme into local authorities.</p> <p><u>Promotion of Easy Fundraising</u></p> <p>There was a discussion on how to promote Easy Fundraising. The school would be happy to promote this on their Facebook page.</p>	

14	<p><b>AOCB</b>  <u>Industrial Strike Action</u>  UNISON have a mandate for industrial strike action which would potentially impact learning support staff, clerical staff, janitorial staff and catering and cleaning staff. Mr Calder advised they are waiting for direction from the local authority around this. The planned strike action is at the end of September which is likely to have implications for the school.</p> <p>A parent asked if teachers would offer an online learning alternative if the building is closed to pupils. Mr Calder advised there are many options and implications to be considered. There are different facets to remote learning, e.g. teacher's communicating on glow or teams, posting resources, responding to comments on a chat, paper packs being delivered to families and live online lessons. However, through local agreements with unions delivery of live online lessons remains optional for teachers. They are expected to engage in remote learning but are not expected to deliver live online lessons. There are many challenges with any type of remote learning e.g. connectivity, broadband issues, pressure on devices in family homes and children who choose not to engage. Mr Calder will communicate any update on industrial strike action as soon as they have a clear position from the local authority.</p> <p><u>Quality Improvement Link Officer</u>  Mrs Samantha Flaws, Executive Manager – Quality Improvement is the new link officer for the school.</p>	R Calder
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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 6pm

**Anderson High School Parent Council**  
**Term One Meeting, Tuesday 12 September 2023**  
**Head Teacher's Report**

**1. A welcome from me**

As an introduction to you, I have been involved in education in Shetland since January 2001; firstly, as a teacher of History in the Anderson High School.

Having also been a Pupil Support teacher in the school, then Head Teacher in Whalsay School, I have spent the last eight years in Children's Services, carrying out various senior education roles, including being the link officer for the Anderson High School since 2017.

It is an honour and a privilege to take up the role, leading this unique school, catering for the whole Shetland community. I am humbled, excited and proud to have been given the opportunity.

I have an affinity with the Anderson High School. The school has been very good to me in my career.

I do, however, come back to the school with my eyes fully open - there are increasing and complex challenges that all schools face.

What drives me as your new Head Teacher?

- Making a positive difference for children and young people and the school community as a whole.
- Improving outcomes and ensuring there are opportunities for all children and young people to succeed and achieve.
- I want young people in the Anderson High School to experience high quality learning and teaching, and develop their skills for work and life.
- I strive to remove barriers to learning to ensure we meet learners' needs.
- Building relationships with staff in the school, parents and carers and partners is also very important to me.
- As is supporting the health and wellbeing of the school community as a whole.

Working with parents and carers, I want to ensure:

- Relationships and trust is strong between parents and carers and the school, and that there is an "open-door" approach.
- Parental concerns and complaints are listened to and acted upon.

- As a school, we listen to, value and respect your points and perspectives.
- We share the appropriate amount of information to you on how your children are progressing through school and the curriculum they are accessing.
- We regularly update you on school news.
- We involve you in the life of the school, including developing the family learning agenda, and exploring with you how we meaningfully include the voice of parents and carers in school self-evaluation and school improvement.
- We also look at ways of reducing barriers to parental involvement and engagement.

## **2. Initial Priorities:**

Over the next couple of terms, I have two key priorities.

- (a) Developing relationships and connections with the school community.
- (b) Exploring the school's context – how is the school working?

Considering:

- (a) What is working well?
- (b) What needs to be improved?
- (c) What are the biggest challenges facing the school?
- (d) What would make the greatest difference?

As part of this exploration, I am keen to gather the views of parents and carers through an online survey, to be issued at the start of term two.

These two initial priorities will help us clarify, collectively as a school community, the longer-term priorities for the school.

## **3. Reflections on the first four weeks in the role**

I have been made to feel very welcome by children and young people and staff.

The school's key partners I have met so far, including Skills Development Scotland, School Nursing Service, Developing the Young Workforce, the Youth and Employability Service, Anchor for Families and Education Outreach have spoken really positively about working in this school, they are made to feel welcome and links with partners are good.

I have been impressed with the range of opportunities on offer at lunchtimes and after school.

#### **4. Staffing**

We have welcomed a number of new staff into the school in recent weeks.

- Mr Manson, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support.
- Mrs Rathore, temporary teacher of English.
- Mr Armstrong, teacher of Craft, Design and Technology.
- Miss Risk, probationer teacher of Maths.
- Miss Nisbet, probationer teacher of Music.
- Ms Garriock, probationer teacher of Home Economics.
- Mrs Phillips, supporting in Physical Education two days a week this term.
- Miss Willins covering Miss Taylor's maternity leave in Modern Studies.
- Mrs Nicolson, temporary, part-time teacher of Business Studies.

We currently have vacancies for the following posts:

- Teacher of English – temporary full-time post, part of the backfill relating to Mrs Kerr's secondment as Head Teacher of Whalsay School. Mrs Cluness is covering the principal teacher role, and, currently, we have general supply in place covering Mrs Cluness' substantive English teacher post. We have asked Children's Services for this temporary post to be advertised.
- Teacher of Craft, Design and Technology - the vacancy is currently being covered by a technical instructor, delivering technical in the Broad General Education phase. This post is currently being advertised.
- 1 x Teacher of Support for Learning (temporary).
- 1 x Learning Support Worker (preferred candidate).
- 2 x Learning Support Worker posts (temporary).

#### **5. School roll**

As of the 12 September 2023, the school roll is 987. This represents a small reduction from June 2023, principally due to secondary five and secondary six



pupils moving into alternative destinations such as college courses and apprenticeships after the summer holidays.

## 6. Attendance

Week	Holidays	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
13/Aug/23 - 19/Aug/23	2	96.96%	95.43%	95.48%	92.18%	96.79%	94.12%	95.17%
20/Aug/23 - 26/Aug/23	0	93.99%	88.85%	89.23%	90.28%	95.78%	93.24%	91.85%
27/Aug/23 - 2/Sep/23	0	92.23%	88.49%	90.06%	87.91%	93.67%	91.58%	90.57%
3/Sep/23 - 9/Sep/23	0	91.15%	89.74%	85.48%	86.78%	93.08%	87.63%	88.99%


## 7. Forthcoming events

Date	Event
Friday 15 September 2023	S3 Monitoring information posted to parents/carers.
Thursday 21 September 2023	S1 Anti-Bullying Disco
Tuesday 26 September 2023	S1 Parents' Evening.
Saturday 30 September 2023	Wool Week Makers' Market, Anderson High School (Anderson High School run the café at this event).
Thursday 05 October 2023	S3 Parents' Evening.
Friday 06 October 2023	Last day of term one.

# AHS Attainment 2023



# Context



2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
SQA Exams and Course assessments as per course arrangements	Alternative Certification Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Professional Judgement</li><li>- Inferred Attainment</li><li>- Algorithm</li><li>- Limited collaboration</li></ul>	Alternative Certification Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Professional Judgement</li><li>- Demonstrated Attainment</li><li>- Multi-layered quality assurance and moderation process</li><li>- Intensive collaboration</li></ul>	SQA Exams with a reduced assessment in SQA courses and a new appeals system due to Covid 19	SQA Exams with a reduced assessment in SQA courses  Appeals – no further evidence submitted

# 2023 Pass Rates – Pre appeals

2022	AHS	Scotland	AHS Difference from National
A-C National 5 %	78.5	78.8	- 0.3
A-C Higher %	75.6	77.1	- 1.5
A-C Advanced Higher %	78.7	79.8	- 1.1

- All Principal Teachers' are attending SMT meetings to discuss attainment patterns and priorities
- Aspirational at N5 – late presentation level changes
- Parental support for pupils being presented at correct levels

# S4 Results 2023

<b>SQA Attainment</b>	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 As August	2019/20 Updated Teacher estimate	2020/21 ACM	2021/22	2022/23
S4							
% S4 attaining 5 or more at level 4	86	91	77	86	86	86	81
% S4 attaining 5 or more at level 5 A to C	48	60	50	59	56	50	51

# S5 results 2023

S5 SQA Attainment	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 As August	2019/20 Updated Teacher estimate	2020/21 ACM	2021/22	2022/23
% S5 3 or more Highers A to C	43	42	46	50	40	40	39
% S5 5 or more Highers A to C	22	24	20	24	18	18	15

- With an increase in pupils now taking alternative options in S5 there are less pupils starting and completing 5 Highers in school
- School/College partnership courses
- Considering new courses across departments – including NPA's and N5's new Highers added this year.
- Attainment is individual

# Certification for all

- Certification remains strong from with a growing range of certification options available to each learner at various SCQF levels.
- Support staff and PEF input are supporting pupils to achieve a range of awards.
- Courses included:

N2 and N3 ICT

N3 Geography

N3 English

N3 Practical Cookery

Rural Skills SCQF level 5

N3 Administration

N3 History Units

N3 People in Society

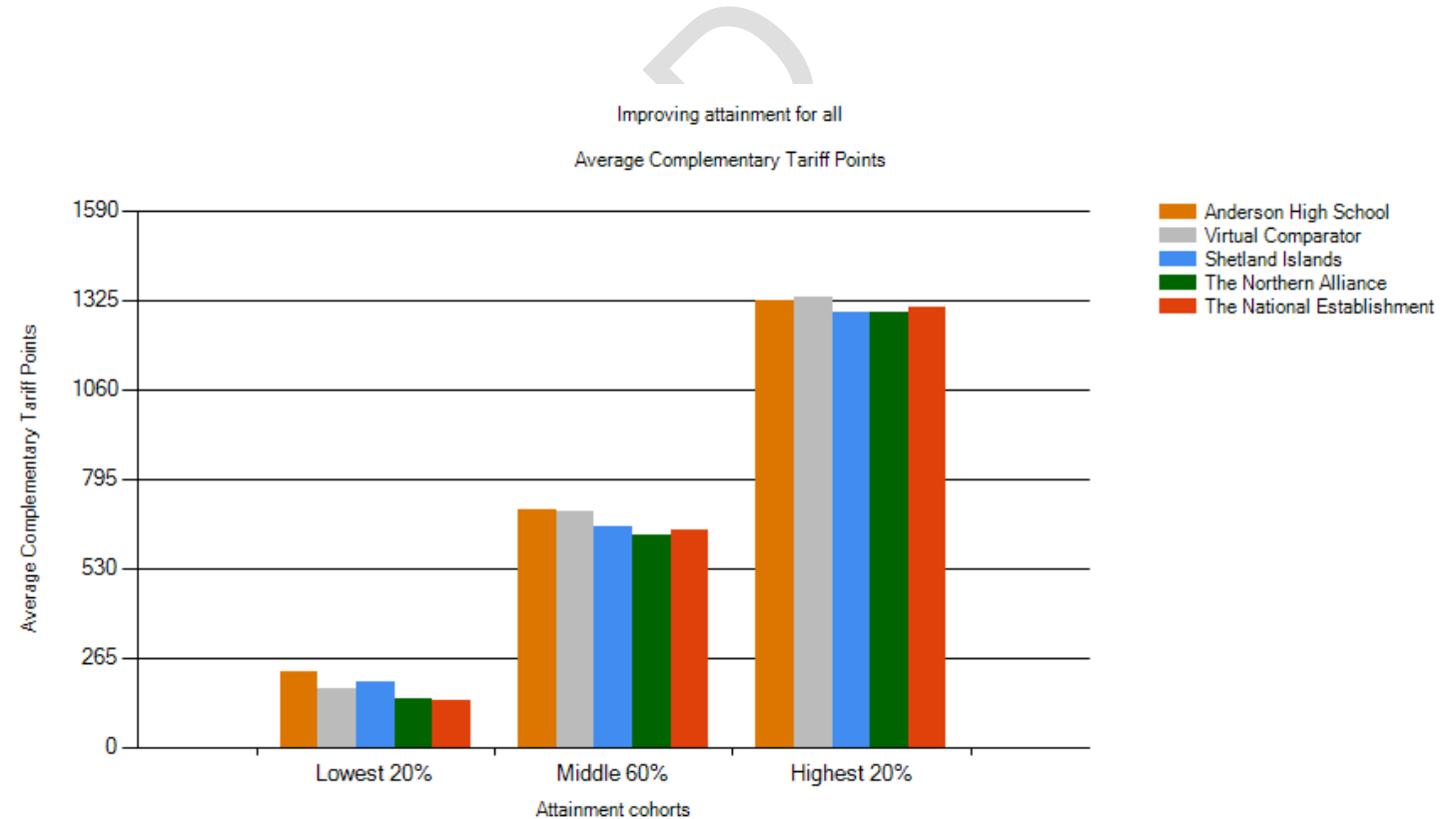
N2 Life skills Mathematics

Literacy, Numeracy at SCQF 4 and 5

Improving Wellbeing award at SCQF 3 and 4

# Improving Attainment for all

Insight March 2023

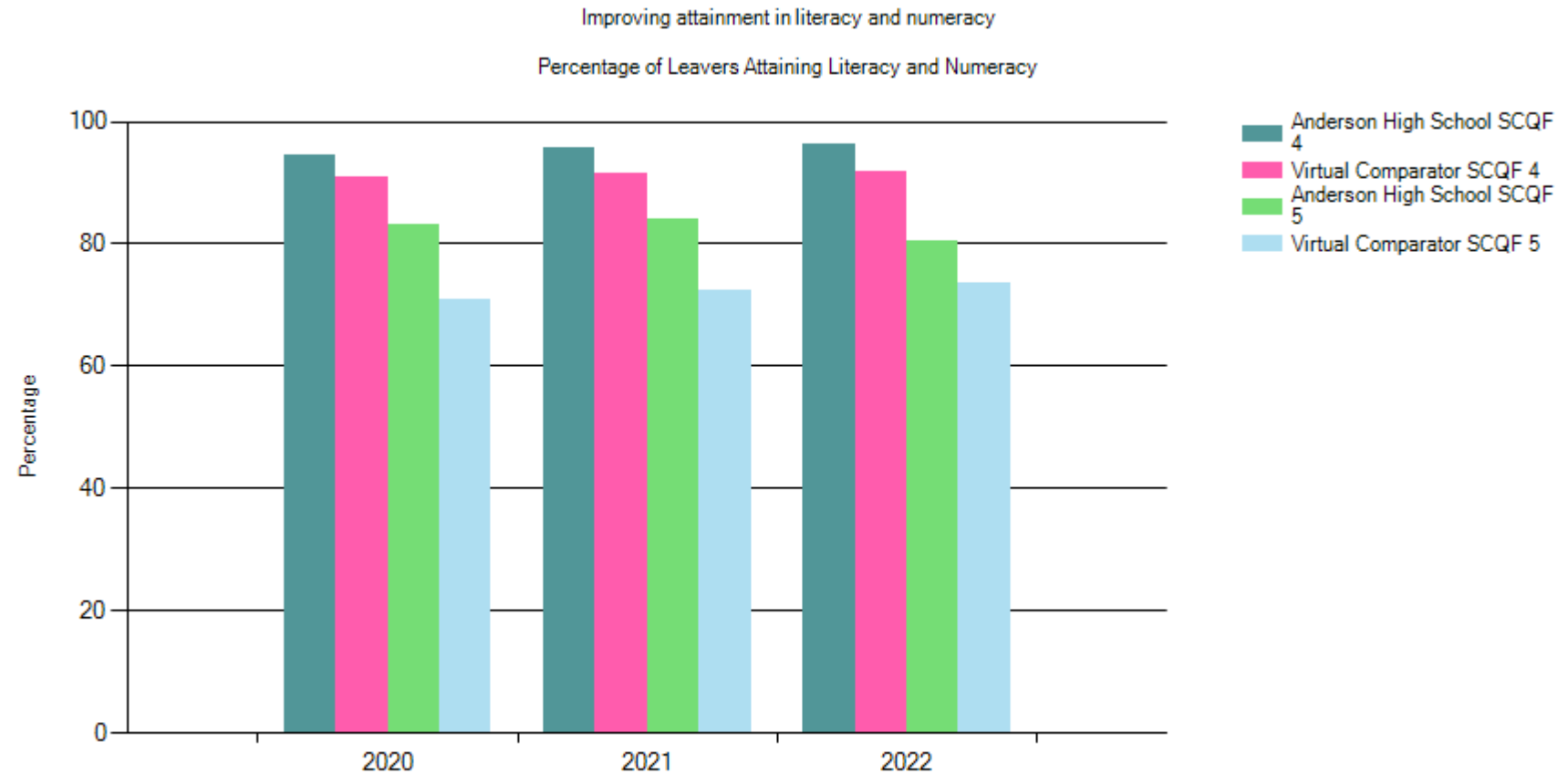


- We continue to improve attainment for pupils in the Lowest and middle cohorts, we are looking to improve attainment for highest 20% in this years School Improvement Plan



# Literacy and Numeracy

## Insight March 2023



- We continue to be above comparator schools for leavers achieving level 4 and 5 Literacy and Numeracy.

# SQA Appeals 2023

## What is Appeals 2023?

Appeals 2023 has a different process to the one used last year as **alternative assessment evidence will not be looked at**. This year, a senior marker will carry out a marking review of SQA-marked assessments. This is not a re-mark. A clerical check will also take place to ensure marks have been added up correctly.

**Please note** that after being reviewed, the result could **stay the same, go up or go down**.

We submitted 36 Appeals at N5 to Advanced Higher – Results will be known in October.